

REVIEW OF THE GREAT WAR AND OTHER NOTABLE EVENTS OF THE YEAR 1915

European Conflict Develops Into a Struggle to the Death, With Deadlock on Eastern and Western Fronts—Serbia Overrun by Germans and Bulgarians—Trying Period for the United States—General Carranza Recognized as President of Mexico.

THE EUROPEAN WAR

The year 1915 has been so distinctive from all the ages to come it will stand apart from those that have preceded it and from those which are to follow. During its entire length, the greater nations of the European continent have abandoned themselves to a policy of bloodshed which has fallen little short of delirium. To the neutral onlooker it has been a revival of a huge scale of the irrational and murderous activity which characterized the earlier ages of mankind. It has been the complete overthrow of all the pacific theories which had apparently gained so strong a foothold at the time of the signing of the first gun in the present conflict.

At the beginning of the year, it was evident that it was to be a struggle to the death. It was plain that the Teutonic plan to force a speedy armistice by dint of superior armed preparation had failed. Six months had elapsed and the Teutonic allies were still faced by three great nations, their strength unbroken and their determination inflexible. Austria had been driven repeatedly by her Russian invaders and twice the Serbs had routed Austrian armies sent against them. On other fields, also, Teutonic efforts had been futile. Thus far Turkey had been of little assistance and the holy war had failed to come into being. German Southwest Africa had been lost and German influence in Asia had been smothered by the Japanese.

As an offset, the Germans still held practically all the conquered territory which had fallen into their hands. Their lines still held firmly in Poland, in Flanders and in France. It was apparent that as yet the Teutonic combination showed no sign of weakening, and a war of attrition seemed inevitable. Both in the east and in the west the military operations of the early part of the year were practically without decisive result. The fighting in Poland had resolved itself into a complete deadlock. In January, the French-English combine made three attempts to break the Teutonic hold on French territory, but accomplished little. The German unsuccessful drive at Warsaw and the rout of the Austrians in Galicia left a slight balance in the January fighting in favor of the allies.

From a strictly military viewpoint, February was a promising month for the Teutonic allies. By the middle of the month, German troops were advancing all along the front from the Vistula to the Niemen, and thus, seven months after the breaking out of the war, German soil was practically cleared of its Russian invaders. The deadlock on the western front was still unbroken.

Scene Shifts to Dardanelles. With the advent of March, there came a sudden and dramatic change in the war situation. The scene of military activity was shifted to the Dardanelles. By the third week of the month, Rome, Athens, Sofia and Bucharest were centers of great political activity. The surrender of Premysl, March 22, was the most stirring victory for the allies since the battle of the Marne. The German assertion that the military power of Russia had dwindled into insignificance was disproved at once and the allied cause gained instant strength in all the neutral capitals. One of the greatest strongholds in Europe had been taken by the Russians.

The disaster to the allied fleet at the Dardanelles, which occurred during the third week of March, put an end to the expectation of forcing the straits by naval means alone. German prestige advanced perceptibly and the difficulty of the task undertaken by the allied fleet was now understood. In this month, also, the British won the battle of Neuve Chapelle after a bloody fight.

In April the French made a bold offensive stroke against the German position between the Meuse and the Moselle—the famous St. Mihiel wedge—which resulted in a tremendous loss of men on both sides, with small advantage for either. Nowhere had the allies made appreciable gain in territory. The invader held his own stubbornly and with success. About the middle of the month, Zepherin made their appearance over English towns, inspiring great interest and not a little apprehension, but doing comparatively small damage. About this time, also, the attempted submarine blockade of the British coast proved to be ineffective. In the closing days of the month another great Teutonic offensive swept against the allied lines in Belgium, thrusting the enemy back upon Ypres, with great loss of life on both sides.

In May the Germans sent their best troops to the aid of the hard-pressed Austrians. By the middle of the month they had worked a startling change in the situation. Premysl was retaken, the Russian campaign in Galicia was shattered, and the czar's armies were soon back where they started out in the previous September. Russia had suffered the greatest disaster in the war. A bow Germany military hero had been revealed in the person of Mackensen, who was now held with Hindenburg in popular esteem.

In the last days of the month, Italy joined forces with the allies against Austria-Hungary.

Fall of Warsaw. The campaign in the West was strangely quiescent. The allies kept

to their trenches and the outside world wondered. Up to June 15 there was no claim of progress by the allies. The Teutonic claim that its side was still engaged in successful warfare on all fronts was not disputed. The splendid resistance interposed by the discredited Turks came as a surprise to the world. Russia was unable to rally her badly demoralized forces to make a winning defense of Lemberg. Once that point had fallen, Warsaw became the main objective. It was not until August 6 that German troops made their triumphant entry into Warsaw, capital of Russian Poland.

September marked a decided change in the Teutonic campaign in the East. Vienna fell on September 9, but immediately afterward the Russians won a series of successes over the Austrians, capturing 40,000 prisoners. The escape of the Russian armies from the net planned by the German strategists was complete. The great Teutonic drive was brought to a halt, and in December the Germans withdrew slightly and intrenched for the winter.

The month of October marked a decided revival of military activity on all fronts. After a long period of comparative quiet in the West, a desperate offensive movement was made by the allies. The French drive in Champagne was one of the bloodiest attempts yet made to pierce the German lines. After three weeks of incessant gunfire, the French troops left their trenches, September 25, and rushed the whole of the first German line. Nearly 20,000 German prisoners were captured, and upward of a hundred field guns, thus far the greatest single capture by the French during the war. But the Germans were not compelled to relinquish any great amount of territory. In Artois the allies did not succeed in breaking through the German lines, but secured some coveted positions at an appalling cost.

This brief period of allied success was followed by an unexpected turn of political affairs in the Balkans. For a second time the Greek king showed his lack of sympathy with the allies. In the spring he had prevented Venizelos, his premier, an avowed supporter of the allies, from sending troops to the Dardanelles. Now, when the allies were depending upon the Greeks to hold the Bulgarians in check, Constantine declined again to act.

Serbia Is Overrun. Bulgaria announced her intention to cast her lot with the central powers and the latter opened a campaign having Turkish relief for its apparent objective. On October 10 the Germans crossed the Danube and proceeded to advance southward, every step contested furiously by the outnumbered Serbs. France, England and Italy declared war on Bulgaria. All at once the center of military activity was transferred to the Balkans.

In November both the long-expected allied offensive in the West and the Teutonic drive in the East came practically to an end. The allies failed to break the stubborn German lines and only achieved a possible moderate success in Champagne and Artois at tremendous cost. By the middle of the month military operations in Russia were practically at a standstill. The Germans having failed to accomplish the object of their campaign. At that time the big German drive to the Golden Horn began to monopolize the attention of the public. The preliminary invasion of Serbia by the Teutonic allies—now including Bulgaria—was begun with notable promptness. In fact, as early as October 27, the invading armies met in the northeastern part of the kingdom, by November 1 Kragujevatz, the chief Serbian arsenal, had fallen, and by November 6 the Bulgarians were in Nish, Serbia's provisional capital and railroad center. By November 19 it was announced that the invading armies held four-fifths of Serbia, and toward the close of the month Germany declared semi-officially that the campaign was over. By the middle of December the Franco-British forces had been driven out of Serbia. They fell back to Saloniki, which with the consent of Greece, they prepared to defend.

Since May 24, when the Italian army crossed the Austrian frontier, the fighting has been continuous, especially along the Isonzo front. The strongly fortified and stubbornly defended town of Gorizia was the Italian objective for weeks. In October the Austrian aeroplanes dropped bombs upon Venice, destroyed art specimens and damaged a church. The Italian liner Arona, bound for New York, was sunk by a submarine flying the Austrian flag on November 9. More than a hundred passengers were killed, including several Americans. The United States made a vigorous demand on Austria to disavow the act and punish the commander of the submarine.

On December 15 the British war office announced that Gen. Sir Douglas Haig had superseded Field Marshal Sir John French as British commander in France and Flanders.

WAR AND THE UNITED STATES

Strictly neutral as has been the policy elected by this country, the government has been brought face to face with many serious problems which have arisen from the conduct of the European war. One of these was the seizure and detention by Great Britain of vessels carrying American goods to neutral ports in Europe. A protest was made by Washington and on January 16 Great Britain replied by offering reasonable redress for any mistake of that nature.

Early in February, Great Britain decided to seize grain and four shipments to Germany even if intended for noncombatants, and, two days later, Germany declared the waters around Great Britain and Ireland to be a war zone, and announced her purpose to destroy every enemy merchant vessel discovered therein. Neutrals were warned of the danger sure to follow. On February 8, the Atlantic liner Lusitania made the passage from New York to Liverpool flying the American flag as a protection against hostile submarines. On February 10, the United States sent notes to Germany and Great Britain concerning American shipping in the war zone. Germany was warned against committing a breach of the rules of naval warfare and Great Britain was reminded that serious consequences might follow the use of the American flag by British vessels. On February 16, Germany offered to withdraw from her crusade against British merchant ships if the British would permit the sending of food to the civilian population of Germany. On the same day, the British government seized the American ship Wilhelm, bound for a German port with wheat for civilian consumption.

The German note to reply to the American protest against the submarine blockade disclaimed all responsibility. Great Britain affirmed its intention to send the Wilhelm to a prize court. In replies to inquiries from the Washington government, neither Germany nor Great Britain showed any disposition to recede from the positions already announced. On April 11, the German ambassador protested to the state department against the attitude of the United States toward the shipment of war materials and British treatment of American trade with Germany. On May 1 the American oil carrier Gulfight was sunk off the Scilly islands by a German submarine.

Destruction of the Lusitania

On May 7, the big transatlantic liner Lusitania was sunk by a German submarine off the coast of Ireland, with a loss of nearly 1,200 lives, including upwards of a hundred Americans. On May 13 the United States protested against the German submarine policy and declared its intention of maintaining the rights of American citizens. On May 25 the American steamer Nebraska was seriously damaged by a torpedo off the south coast of Ireland. On May 28 the German reply to the United States note of protest in regard to the submarine policy in the so-called "war zone" was received. Final statement of the German position was reserved until a common basis of fact as to the status of the Lusitania should be established. On May 31 Germany made official announcement that the Gulfight had been sunk by a German submarine whose captain failed to recognize the American flag.

On June 8 Secretary of State William J. Bryan resigned his office to avoid signing a second note of protest to Germany against submarine interference with merchant ships. On the following day this note was sent and assurances were asked that in future American ships and lives should be safeguarded. On June 22 the British government sent an official note to the American ambassador explaining efforts made to protect neutral shipping. On June 28 the British steamer Armenian was destroyed by a German submarine off the coast of southern England and a number of Americans in the crew lost their lives.

On July 8 Germany replied to the second Washington note regarding the submarine war against merchant ships, promising safety to United States ships in the war zone if specifically marked, and suggesting that the American flag be placed on four hostile steamers for the safe transportation of American passengers.

More Diplomatic Notes

On July 21 the United States sent a third note to Germany, with the statement that the German reply to a former note had been "very unsatisfactory," and that a repetition of such acts complained of would be regarded as "deliberately unfriendly." On August 3 several notes from Great Britain concerning interference with American trade in the war zone were made public, in which it was claimed that Great Britain was doing nothing in violation of international law. In the case of the William P. Frye, an American ship sunk by the Prinz Eitel Friedrich, January 28, Germany agreed to furnish indemnity, and the United States accepted the offer and proposed that the matter be referred to The Hague court.

On August 19 the British liner Arabic was torpedoed by a German submarine and several Americans were drowned. A lively diplomatic controversy followed, and the tension in the United States was at the breaking point. On September 7 the German government notified the United States that the captain of the submarine had torpedoed the Arabic in self-defense, believing that she was about to ram him. On September 9 the United States asked Austria-Hungary to recall Doctor Dumba, its ambassador, charged with being active in a movement to cripple American manufacture of munitions. On October 5 the German government disavowed the act of the submarine captain who sank the Arabic. At this time it was announced that the pending French-British loan of \$500,000,000 had been oversubscribed.

The United States secret service, October 24, arrested a young man who called himself Robert Fay and declared that he was a lieutenant in the German army and came to America to destroy merchant vessels of the allies and American munition plants. Early in December, the Washington government demanded the recall of the German attaches, Boy-Ed and Von Papen, on the ground of pernicious activity. They were recalled by the Kaiser.

Dr. Carl Buezn, managing director of the Hamburg-American line, and two employees of the company were convicted in New York in December of conspiracy to deceive the government in sending vessels with supplies for German warships.

THE CIVIL WAR IN MEXICO

In the early part of the year it was

evident that Francisco Villa had the ambition to become the political Warwick of the republic of Mexico. On January 7 he deposed the provisional governor, Gutierrez, and installed General Garza in his place. He was still master of the situation at the City of Mexico, and Carranza still maintained his stand at Vera Cruz. Meantime, the fighting went on uninterruptedly, with varying results, but none decisive.

In June the situation on the border and elsewhere became so irritating that the United States government felt compelled to give official warning to the factional leaders that failure on their part to come to some agreement would necessitate intervention. Despite this intimation, the forces of Villa and Carranza continued to keep revolution aflame, and by midsummer the Mexican situation seemed to be more inexplicable than ever. Villa's star waned perceptibly. A new military influence, General Obregon, took the center of the stage. He assumed the leadership of the Carranza faction, and his military successes were considerable. In July General Gonzalez, another Carranza supporter, fought his way into Mexico City, displacing General Zapata, who held the place in the Villa interest. Later, Gonzalez was driven out and the situation was so threatening to life and property in the capital that, in August, American battleships were ordered to Vera Cruz, but were not put into action. In this month, also, an appeal signed by Secretary of State Lansing and the representatives of South and Central American governments asking all warring elements in Mexico to get together in an attempt at pacification was sent to the various leaders. During September the fighting on the Mexican border grew more desperate. There were many fatalities before United States troops gained control of the situation.

On October 13, nine of the principal governments of the American hemisphere, headed by the United States, recognized the de facto government of Mexico of which Carranza is the chief.

OUR LAWMAKERS

The Sixty-third congress came to a close on March 4, its final act of special importance being the adoption of a resolution to strengthen the powers of the president in the enforcement of neutrality laws. Both branches agreed to the conference report on the naval appropriation bill calling for two new battleships, six destroyers and eight submarine minelayers. The president's nominations for the promotion of army and navy officers connected with the building of the Panama canal were confirmed by the senate, so that Colonel Goethals and Brigadier General Gorgas became major generals.

On January 26, the West Virginia legislature decided to submit a woman suffrage amendment at the 1916 election. Two days later, in Tennessee, the house passed a bill for a referendum vote on woman suffrage, already passed by the upper house. Arkansas declared for prohibition. In Iowa, prohibition again becomes effective on January 1, 1916. Both Idaho and Utah adopted prohibition bills.

March 5, the North Dakota legislature passed a bill abolishing capital punishment. South Dakota had taken similar action January 30. March 10, Rear Admiral Fletcher, Howard and Cowles were made admirals, a new naval grade established by the last congress. March 18, Governor Spry of Utah vetoed the state-wide prohibition bill. April 7, the Alaska house passed a measure submitting prohibition to the voters. A week later, it agreed to the senate bill abolishing capital punishment. June 3, the government plea to have the United States Steel corporation dissolved was denied by the United States circuit court for New Jersey and the defendant was held to be a lawful enterprise.

Resignation of Bryan

June 8, William J. Bryan resigned the office of secretary of state, declaring himself out of sympathy with the president's policy toward the European war. On the following day, President Wilson appointed Robert Lansing, counselor for the state department, to take charge of the office. Mr. Lansing was made secretary of state June 23. State-wide prohibition became operative in Alabama on July 1. On July 23, the interstate commerce commission permitted advances in express rates and on August 11 it allowed increases in railroad freight rates on 41 railroads. It ordered reductions in freight rates on anthracite coal. August 24, the Eastman Kodak company was declared to be an illegal combination and ordered dissolved. September 10, the members of the constitutional convention of New York state adopted the proposed constitution, but it was overwhelmingly defeated at the polls November 2. State-wide prohibition triumphed in South Carolina, September 14, by a decisive majority.

President Wilson announced, October 6, his intention to vote for woman suffrage at the special election in New Jersey on October 19. At that election, the proposed constitutional amendment was defeated by a majority of 50,000. November elections were held in eight states. Four of these—Kentucky, Maryland, Massachusetts and Mississippi—chose governors. In three states—Massachusetts, New York and Pennsylvania—woman suffrage was rejected by large majorities. In Ohio, a state-wide prohibition measure was defeated by a majority of 35,000. Changes in the national house of representatives reduced the Democratic majority to twenty-five. The Sixty-fourth congress opened December 6. Senator Clarke of Arkansas was elected president pro tem of the senate and Champ Clark was re-elected speaker.

POLITICS IN OTHER LANDS

February 12, the protocol of the anti-opium convention was signed at The Hague by representatives of the United States, China and Holland. March 5, Gen. Vilbrun G. Sam, leader of the revolution which overthrew Davila, was elected president of Haiti. March 7, the popular minister of Greece, Eleutherios Venizelos, resigned, his policy of active participation in the war on the side of the allies not meeting the approval of King

Constantine. A new ministry was formed, with Demetrios Gounaris at its head, but he was soon succeeded by M. Skouloudis.

April 23, the Danish diet passed a constitutional amendment giving the ballot to women. Before it can become law this measure must also pass the next diet. May 4, Italy repudiated her alliance with Germany and Austria, declaring that Austria's invasion of Serbia constituted a sufficient cause. May 26, the British Liberal ministry was reorganized on a coalition basis. Ex-Premier Balfour, Bonar Law, six other Unionists and a Labor party man accepted portfolios. May 29, Theophile Braga was elected president of Portugal. June 5, the new Danish constitution was signed by King Christian. One of its most important features is the extension of the suffrage to women. July 21, the voters of Alberta, western Canada, carried prohibition by a large majority. In the latter part of the month, a new revolutionary movement broke out in Haiti and the president, General Sam, was killed. The United States cruiser Washington landed marines to stop further carnage. Juan Luis San Fuenes was elected president of Chile on July 25, and Dr. Jose Pardo was inaugurated as president of Peru on August 18.

September 16, a treaty between the United States and Haiti was signed at Port au Prince, providing for American supervision of the finances and police regulation of that republic. General Dartigue was recognized as president.

In November, it was announced that a majority of the Chinese provinces had voted unanimously for the restoration of the monarchical form of government with President Yuan Shih-kai as emperor, and on December 11 he announced his acceptance of the throne. The Japanese mikado, Yoshihito, was crowned at Kyoto November 10.

INDUSTRIAL AGITATION

Early in the year, the meetings of the industrial relations commission, held in New York city, attracted much attention on account of the prominence of some of those who were called to testify. The chief purpose of the investigation was to obtain the opinions of well-known capitalists and employers on the present relations of capital and labor. January 19, guards in a factory near Roosevelt, N. J., fired on a group of striking workmen, killing one man and wounding several others. April 16, in Chicago, 1,600 carpenters went on strike for an increase in wages. June 14, motormen and conductors on the surface and elevated railways of Chicago, 14,000 in all, struck for higher wages and a complete tie-up resulted. The dispute, however, was settled by arbitration after two days of business paralysis. The carpenters' strike in that city, which had crippled the building industry for several months, was ended by a compromise wage agreement July 10. Ten days later, a strike of 60,000 garment makers in New York city was averted by a wage increase of 12 to 15 per cent.

In July the employees of the Standard Oil plant at Bayonne, N. J., went on strike and serious rioting followed. During the lawlessness which prevailed, two strikers were killed and many policemen and onlookers were injured. After a week of disorder, a wage increase was obtained and the strikers resumed work. July 22, a strike for higher wages and shorter hours at the Remington Arms works, Bridgeport, Conn., resulted in a victory for the employees. August 4, a threatened strike involving 60,000 workers on woman's garments, in New York city, was prevented by an increase in wages.

In September, the long and not infrequently violent dispute over industrial conditions at the mines of the Colorado Fuel and Iron company was brought to an end. John D. Rockefeller, Jr., made an extended visit of investigation to the property and as an outcome suggested a plan for adjusting differences which was accepted by the miners in a formal referendum vote. An agreement was signed to maintain the present wage scale and the eight-hour day until January 1, 1918. The demand for union recognition made by the miners was not granted, but many concessions were made by the company in favor of the employees.

In July a miners' strike practically put a stop to the great Welsh coal industry. After several conferences between Mr. Lloyd George, the British minister of munitions, the colliery owners and representatives of the miners, the trouble was settled July 20, and the men went back to work. Further strikes and lockouts were prohibited by law.

As early as June 30, the state of American foreign trade showed a balance of exports over imports of more than \$1,000,000,000. This was a new experience for the United States. The yield of wheat for the year, according to the latest reports, exceeds 1,000,000,000 bushels, the largest on record. A corn crop of 3,000,000,000 bushels, at current prices, makes it the most valuable ever harvested in the country. The American oats crop is also one of the most bountiful on record.

LAND AND SEA DISASTERS

A seismic horror which recalled the Messina earthquake of seven years ago, occurred January 13. A large district in central Italy, east of Rome, was laid waste and nearly 30,000 lives were lost. At Avezzano, 98 per cent of the population was destroyed and the property loss was more than \$100,000,000.

February 10, earthquake, hurricane and an accompanying tidal wave visited the American Samoan group and caused great destruction on the Manua Islands. In the latter part of June, severe earth shocks were felt through the Imperial valley, in southern California. July 7, a violent storm swept over Missouri, Illinois, Ohio and Indiana and left wide destruction in its wake. July 14, southern China floods destroyed 80,000 persons. Some parts of Canton were ten feet under water.

Aug. 3, a cloudburst at Erie, Pa., flooded a large area of the city, drowned 25 persons and caused great damage to property. August 11, an earthquake shock was felt in Italy, and Vesuvius, Etna and Stromboli became active. August 18, a tropical storm which developed into a hurricane struck the Texas coast and raged violently for two days. Nearly 200 persons were the victims of its fury and the property loss was computed in millions. September 29, a hurricane dashed over the lower Mississippi valley and Gulf coast, destroying 300 persons and a great amount of property.

January 21, a boiler explosion on the armored cruiser San Diego off the west coast of Mexico resulted in the death of six American sailors. March 2, there was an explosion of gas in a mine at Leyland, W. Va., and over 100 men were killed outright. March 25 was the date of the shocking submarine accident which resulted in the sinking of the United States boat F-4 during maneuvers in Honolulu harbor. Her entire crew of 21 was drowned. April 3, a Dutch steamer, the Prins Mauritz, foundered off the Virginia coast and 59 persons lost their lives.

On the last day of April, a big fire at Colon, Panama, destroyed 22 blocks, killed 11 persons and entailed a property loss of \$3,500,000. May 22, England experienced the most considerable wreck in the history of its railway system. More than 150 persons, mostly soldiers going into quarters, were killed near Carlisle.

Steamer Eastland Horror. The most conspicuous horror of the year for Americans was the overturning of the excursion steamer Eastland at her pier in the Chicago river, July 24. In broad daylight, a few feet from the shore, 852 persons, largely women and children out for a holiday, were drowned.

A tornado of huge proportions swept over parts of Nebraska, South Dakota, Iowa and Kansas, November 10, destroying much property and causing the death of a dozen persons. October 28, a parochial school at Peabody, Mass., which was unprovided with fire escapes, was burned and 21 girls lost their lives. A factory fire in Brooklyn, N. Y., November 6, resulted in the death of 12 persons. On November 10 the gun plant of the Bethlehem Steel company burned with a loss of \$3,000,000, and next day there was a million-dollar fire in the war material plant of the Roebling Sons company at Trenton, N. J. Flames destroyed much of Avalon, Catalina island on November 29. The same day an explosion in the DuPont Powder company plant at Wilmington, Del., killed 31. On December 9 the DuPont powder town of Hopewell, Va., was burned down.

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CAN'T GET READY IN "JIFFY" SAYS TAFT

Deplores Happy Go-Lucky Feeling About Preparation. Poughkeepsie, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Addressing over 2,000 people at a community meeting held in a local theatre to-day former President William H. Taft expressed himself as favoring reasonable preparation on the part of the United States. He expressed absolute confidence in the patriotism of the citizenship, but said the people are prone to have a "happy-go-lucky" feeling that they could get ready in a "jiffy" should the crisis arise.

Mr. Taft spoke on "Our Duties of Citizenship." To insure a successful and peaceful future, he said, the minority must be obedient to the laws made by the administration and the majority must have a just regard for the rights of the minority.

ARMORED MOTOR CAR IN BATTLE

Part of a Lively Skirmish in Riga Region. Petrograd via London, Jan. 2.—The official statement from general headquarters issued to-day reads:

"Western (Russian) front: In the Riga region, on the Baldon road, a lively fusillade and cannonade occurred, in which a German armored motor car participated. In the district south of Jacobstadt and near the Podanyay farm there was lively artillery and rifle firing.

"In the region of the Pomevich railway the Germans threw into our trenches some hand grenades and smoke bombs. "North of Zartorsk the enemy twice attacked our fortifications, but met with heavy losses and was thrown back on his own trenches. We captured an officer and 50 men."

"On the Strupa front the enemy under our pressure was obliged to fall back on new fortified positions. A particularly fierce engagement occurred near Cernovitz, where we occupied several heights captured 15 officers, 25 men, three machine guns and one bomb machine. Thereafter a Kurdish detachment of some hundreds of men, occupying the town of Khopa, sabred the enemy and dispersed his forces."

"In Persia there is nothing to report except the occupation by our troops of the village of Zol near Hamadan."

"TRUSTY" RETURNS AFTER ESCAPE

Ossining, N. Y., Jan. 2.—Tony Mareno, Sing Sing prison convict, who was known as "Butler" to Thomas Mott Osborne, the indicted warden and who escaped last night, returned of his own accord to-night. He said he rode to New York on a train with two prison guards as far as Tarrytown, but they failed to see him. In New York he told Deputy Warden Miller, ex-convict, he met raised a fund to pay his way to the West, but when they learned that Mr. Osborne had not been permanently removed they advised him to return to show his regard for the warden.

EFFECTIVE

"What is your favorite poem?" asked the literary young woman. "The Boy Stood on the Burning Deck," answered the commonplace young man. "I used to recite it every time father and mother had company."

WHO DOES IT, THEN?

(From the Lawrence Telegram.) The Kaiserine may be economizing in her household, as is reported, but it is not believed that she is doing her own washing as yet.

FATAL POLITICS OF DARK AGES

Poisoning Was Customary Way to Get Rid of Individuals.

Comparison of Certain Historic Murders with the Present Day Endeavors of Warring Nations to Poison Entire Armies.

It is interesting to-day, when the opposing armies are "poisoning" their opponents on battle by the use of poisonous vapors, to recall the horror evoked by the deeds of poisoners in the past. The names of the Borgias and the Medici are to this day held up to the detestation of mankind. Yet these and their like only poisoned individuals; the fighting forces today are compelled to endeavor to poison entire armies.

Their wholesale methods will doubtless go to enrich the annals of historical poisoning. For poison has played a great part in history. The employment of poison by the ancients is graphically and terribly illustrated in the deaths of Socrates, Demosthenes, Hannibal, and Cleopatra, which in the reign of Augustus, H. (M. Monmon), B. C. 40-45. Phryne poisoned the queen, Statira, by cutting food with a knife poisoned on one side.

In the early part of the Christian era numerous professional poisoners arose, and for a long time exercised their trade with impunity. "Poisoning," says a well-known authority, "was as much in use as a political engine that Agrippina (A. D. 20) resorted to out of some spiteful hatred for her father-in-law, Thiberius."

It is a curious fact that Agrippina, whilst refusing to partake of the poison which was offered her, was herself the victim of the poisoning of Claudius, but her death was noted out to her in the death of the poison of her son, Britannicus.

It was at this time, too, that the infamous Lucretia Borgia is said to have supplied, with suitable directions, the poison by which Agrippina got rid of Claudius, and she was also the principal agent in the poisoning of the emperor, which was administered to Britannicus by order of her brother Nero.

"It was the custom of the Romans to drink hot water," says Wynter Blythe; "a draught of cold water, to us, but from fashion or habit, considered by them a luxury. And as no two men's tastes are alike, great skill was shown by the slaves in bringing the water to exactly that degree of heat which their respective masters found agreeable."

"A slave brings water to Britannicus; it is too hot; Britannicus refuses it. The slave adds cold water; and it is this cold water this is supposed to have been poisoned. In any case, Britannicus died, an extraordinary acidity spreading over the corpse, which they attempted to conceal by putting the face in a bath."

There has come down to us a curious document said to have been drawn out by Charles de Maynard King of Navarre, which shows how arsenic was much favored as a political weapon by crowned heads in the fourteenth century. It is a commission of murder given to a certain undertaker.

"Go thou to Paris. Thou shalt do great service if thou wilt. Do what I tell thee. I will reward thee well. Thou shalt do this: There is a thing which is called sublimar arsenic. If a man eat a bit the size of a pea he will never survive. Thou wilt find it in Pampeluna, Bordeaux, Bayonne, and in all good towns through which thou wilt pass, at the apothecaries' shops."

"Take it and powder it; and when thou shalt be in the house of the King, and of Valois, his brother, the Duke of Berry, Burgundy, and Bourbon, draw near and betake this to the kitchen, to the cellar, to the other, and in other places where thy point can be best gained. Put the powder in the soups, meats or wines, provided that thou canst do it secretly. Otherwise, do it not."

Wouderton, failing to accomplish his task, was detected, and executed in 1384. No better example of this dread in which poisoners were held can be quoted than the fact that at so late a period as the reign of Henry VII extraordinary precautions were thought necessary for preserving the life of the infant heir. It was ordained that no person, of whatsoever rank, except the regular attendants in the nursery, were to approach the king, except with an order from the King's hand. Moreover, everything intended for the royal infant was to be sent all risk of poison as far as possible.

One of the more recent instances of political poisoning is that of the Sultan Abdul-Aziz, who died May 30, 1876. By reason of his advanced ideas he was forced to abdicate the throne; and four days later the unhappy Sultan was found dead. It is almost certain by foul play.

—From Answers.

MIDDLESEX BARN BURNS.

Lantern Causes \$2,000 Fire on Roy Harris Farm.

Montpelier, Jan. 2.—Failure securely to hang up a lantern after milking had been finished resulted in the big barn on the Roy Harris farm in Middlesex Center being destroyed by fire late yesterday afternoon. Although located close to the farmhouse, neighbors assisted Mr. Harris and his hired hands to save the main building, being aided materially by the presence of the snow on the roofs. The loss is estimated at about \$2,000 and is partially covered by insurance. There were ten head of cattle in the barn and a number of horses and they were rescued, two pigs and some hens in the basement being the only livestock to burn. Milking was finished at five o'clock and Mr. Harris hung up a lantern in the barn. Within a half hour the barn was all ablaze and it is presumed that the lantern fell off the peg and exploded.

CITROLAX

Best thing for constipation, sour stomach, lazy liver and sluggish bowels.

Stops a sick headache almost at once. Gives a most thorough and satisfactory flushing—no pain, no nausea. Keeps your system cleansed, sweet and wholesome. Ask for Citrolax. J. W. O'Sullivan. (Adv.)

ECONOMY FOR BOTH